(c) if so, action taken against the owners of Fair Price Shops if the quality is found poor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under joint responsibility by Central Government and State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government makes bulk allocations of items under PDS including wheat and rice to all the States/UTs. Only the good quality of wheat and rice free from insect infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards are issued by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for distribution through PDS outlets. States/UTs are allowed to inspect all stocks at godowns before accepting the same and have the right to reject stocks not conforming to the prescribed quality standards.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Surprise checks by the officers of State Governments as well as officers of the quality control cell of Union Food Ministry are conducted to check quality of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops. As the operational responsibility of PDS is of State Governments/UT Administrations, therefore, in case the quality of foodgrains supplied through FPS is found poor, not conforming to prescribed standards, concerned State Government/UT Administration takes necessary action under Essential Commodities Act, Blackmarketing Act etc.

Joint sampling of coal at power station end in Gujarat

965. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Elctricity Board has been requesting the Coal India Ltd. for joint sampling of coal at power station end;

(b) if so, the reasons why the old practice of joint sampling at the power station end was discontinued;

(c) whether there is any dispute between the CIL and GEB on the amount involved in this respect;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any State Electricity Board has requested the Central Government for the creation of an insurance fund to take care of the loss of revenue incurred by SEB for short supply of coal; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed by Central Government or the CIL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In keeping with World-wide commercial practice, the loading end is the logical one for ascertaining the quality and quantity of coal despatches to consumers. This is also in accordance with the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

(c) and (d) There have been claims from Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) regarding grade slippages in coal supplies. These claims have since been settled through mutual discussions between GEB and Coal companies.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Handing over of land to Rubber Board at Industrial Estate, Kottayam

966. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for handing over 6 acres of land at the industrial estate, Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala to Rubber Board which has been addressed to Additional Secretary and Development Commisioner, Small Scale Industry, Government of India and is pending for action;

(b) the reasons for delay in taking decision thereon; and

(c) whether it will be considered formally?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a request was received from Chairman, Rubber Board for 6 acres of land to be given to them at the Industrial Estate, Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala. The Production Centre at Ettumanoor, Kerala is presently being utilised for providing technical training to the local entrepreneurs.

(c) Does not arise.